

John 20:1-18 NIV

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, "**Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?**"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

¹⁷ Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

1. More than 3 years of following Jesus

- A.** The 12 witnessed what no one ever witnessed in history
- B.** Blind men received their sight
- C.** Demons cast out with 1 Word
- D.** Storms silenced in an instant
- E.** The dead brought back to life after 4 days...
 - i.** Yet humble and gentle enough that children wanted Him
 - ii.** And bold enough to confront the religious leaders
- F.** This was not an ordinary man

G. This is God walking among men

2. Late Thursday night, everything changed

A. Guards came with swords and lanterns

B. Jesus endures 6 mock trials

C. Scourged without mercy

D. A death sentence with immediate procession to the Cross

E. Most of his disciples were gone

F. He hung on the Cross for 6 hours

G. Last 3 hours were absolute darkness

H. He breathes His last and is dead

I. A wealthy man places Jesus in a new tomb

J. It appears that it is all over

K. Mary came to a tomb with spices expecting to see a dead body

L. Her hope was gone

i. Her expectation was crushed

3. Yet our passage mentions the tomb 8 times

4. It mentions the word "saw" 5 times

I. What Mary saw

II. What Mary heard

I. What Mary saw

A. Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark

1. She witnessed an angel sitting on top of the rolled stone

A. The angel didn't roll the stone for Jesus

i. Jesus could walk through walls

B. It was rolled for the disciples to enter in to see the empty tomb

C. God does all of the heavy lifting for us

i. All the barriers and obstacles that hinder our path, have been removed by the resurrection

D. She runs with the other women to Peter and John

E. All 3 of them witness

2. The folded linen where the body once was

A. Jesus neatly folded the linen that He was covered in

B. It's been neatly folded to leave a statement

i. God is very detailed and neat in His work

1. He's in Control

2. He didn't rush out of the tomb

3. He knew exactly the appointed time to rise and He did so in quietness and confidence

4. **Isaiah 30:15** In quietness and confidence shall be your strength

ii. In looking at our Lord, He's never in a frantic rush

iii. He's calm and knows He has everything under control

iv. Even when the waves were raging, He was asleep

v. John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

3. She saw the 2 angels inside the empty tomb

A. Peter and John took off and she remained by the tomb

- B.** She could have taken off with them; but she remained

- C.** My hat's off to those who are confused right now and weeping, but haven't abandoned the faith

- D.** Mary wept and continued to look and saw the angels

- E.** Picture the mercy seat with the 2 angels.

- F.** In the Old Testament, the High Priest had to enter into the most holy place once per year with blood to atone for sins
 - i. Yom Kippur

- G.** Placed the blood on the Ark of the Covenant
 - i. The mercy seat here is a picture of the mercy seat in heaven
 - ii. The final sacrifice was perfect and accepted by God
 - iii. Every sin is now atoned for

4. Mary also saw the Risen Lord

- A.** ¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary."

B. Seeing Him was proof that God accepted the sacrifice on the Cross

C. If he died inside, then his offering was not accepted and there's no atonement (forgiveness)

D. God decided to show us with triumphant evidence that the offering of sin was accepted

2. Jesus rose from the grave as His perfect blood cleanses us from all sin.

A. 2 Cor 5:19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them

B. Heb 7:25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them

II. What Mary heard

1. Mary heard Jesus call her by name

A. She didn't have her theology right, but she had a love that could not be quenched

B. G Campbell Morgan: Hopeless, disappointed, bereaved, heartbroken; but the love He had created in those hearts for Himself could not be quenched, even by His dying; could not be overcome, even though they were disappointed; could not be extinguished, even though the light of hope had gone out, and over the sea of their sorrow there was no sighing wind that told of the dawn.

C. She worshipped Him in her darkest hour

D. We may not always have our theology correct, but that won't stop God from meeting with us and having compassion on us

E. Mary means "their rebellion"

F. She was rebellious against God for a season

G. She was so lost that she was demonized with 7 evil spirits

H. One day, she had an encounter with the Lord

i. He set her free

I. Now she hears her name being called

i. Mary

ii. What was once a source of rebellion and strife is now a melodious blessed name

iii. Her legacy is left for us about the grace of God on a person's life

J. Another reason for believing the truth of the Bible

- K.** Women were not treated equally in those days
- L.** Jesus lifts up the position of women everywhere and calls his first evangelist – Mary

2. Mary also heard Jesus say, tell my brethren to meet me in Galilee

- A.** I'm going to gather them in Galilee
- B.** **Go tell my brethren**
 - i.** Not go tell those cowards or those backsliders
 - 1. No words of anger or frustration with Christ
- C.** Galilee is where they first met Jesus
 - i.** Circuit
- D.** After chaos & distress, Jesus gives direction to meet Him in Galilee
 - i.** For us today, it's not a physical location
 - ii.** It's the place where we first met Him
 - iii.** The place of simplicity, a simple faith
- E.** So when things get complicated, go to the first place where you met Him.
 - i.** **In Galilee, I will meet with each disciple uniquely**
 - 1. John may only need a Word of encouragement
 - 2. Matthew may need to see the smile on my face

3. Peter will need a walk along the shore
4. I'm committed to each disciple to bring more than understanding
 - a. I'm bringing restoration

F. God desires to bring you back to your first meeting place with Him today

- i.** It's in that place that you go beyond information
- ii.** Your Galilee includes perhaps a Word of encouragement
- iii.** Perhaps getting a glimpse of the smile on Jesus' face
- iv.** Perhaps like Peter, you need to take a long walk with Jesus and allow Him to speak His truth to you and reaffirm you.
 1. You've left Him and denied Him
 2. But He never left you or stopped loving and thinking about you

1. What is the meaning of the resurrection for us?

- A. 1 Cor 15:17** And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. 18 In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! 19 And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.
- B.** Over 500 people saw Jesus resurrected

- C. The disciples gave their lives in violent deaths basing their faith on the resurrection
 - i. Because He lives, we also will live
 - ii. **It is our hope as believers in a new life**
- D. **John 11:25**, "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believes in Me though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever lives and believes in Me shall never die
- E. **1 Peter 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead
- F. Resurrection means we have hope for today and the promise of tomorrow at home with the Lord
- G. There is a new beginning of Grace waiting for you